ली है। कार्यक्रम को सफल बनाने के मामले में सामने आई अड़चनों को दूर करने के लिए लगातार प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं।

Hike in prices and shortage of essential drugs

1966. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the indigenously processed medicines are out of the reach of 80 percent of the population of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is chronic shortage of essential drugs in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps already taken/being taken to ensure the regular availability of these medicines at cheap rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FETRILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir. Most of the commonly used essential and life saving allopathic drugs are under price control. The prices of these medicines are fixed/revised in accordance with provisions of the DPCO, 87 after careful scrutiny of the recommendations of the BTCP. This mechanism ensures that the prices fixed/revised are reasonable and within the reach of the common man.

(b) While the Government does get reports of temporary shortage of drugs, no case of Chronic shortage of any essential drug has come to the notice of the Government. In most of the cases, the instances were of temporary shortage of some branded formulations in some localised areas, for which other brands or therapeutic equivalents were normally available. As soon as any such shortage is reported, the concerned manufacturers are asked to rush stocks to the areas of shortage.

(c) Ensuring abundant availability, at reasonable prices, of essential life saving and prophylactic medicines of good quality is the main objective of the existing Drug Policy. In the current exercise of review of the Drug Policy also, this objective has been kept uppermost in mind.

Fertilizer plants manufacturing Caprolactum

1967. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the fertilizer plants in the country manufacturing caprolactum indicating the capacity in each plant;

(b) the estimated requirement of caprolactum in the country;

(c) what is the cost of production of caprolactum in each of the plants;

(d) whether it is a fact that the price of imported caprolactum are cheaper than the indigenously produced particularly after the introduction of the new policy by Government; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to protect the indigenous units against cheap import of caprolactum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) M/s Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT) and Gujarat State Fertilizers Company (GSFC) are the only two manufacturers of caprolactam in the country, with installed capacity of 50,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) and 20,000 tpa, respectively. The expansion project of GSFC with additional 50,000 tpa capacity is under commissioning. The estimated requirement of caprolactam is around 90,000 to 100,000 tonnes per annum.

(c) The cost of production of FACT's caprolactum is estimated at Rs. 63,500/MT. The average cost of production of caprolactam manufactured by GSFC (after commissioning of expansion project) is estimated at Rs. 61,700/MT.